GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF MARCH 23, 1925. Vol. IV. No. 3.

1. Chile's Intricate Government Machinery.
2. Leipzig Has "World's Fair" Every Year.
3. Jubaland: An African Dixie.
4. Chihuahua: A Rich Neighbor.
5. Bucharest: The Brooklyn of the Balkans.

© *National Geographic Society.*

CASTING MOLTEN COPPER

A machine-operated ladle pours the metal into four molds. Each mold contains from 175 to 200 pounds of 99.6 per cent pure copper.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Chile's Intricate Government Machinery

AFTER a "leave of absence" forced on him by a group of officials who seized the government, the President of Chile is returning from Europe to resume his position as executive head of the government. This unusual situation draws attention to Chile's constitution, which in many ways is the most interesting in Latin America.

Has Second Oldest American Constitution

The constitution has existed since 1833 and is the oldest constitution of a republic in the Western Hemisphere except that of the United States. It is an intimate mixture of the governmental principles of the United States and those of Europe. While it was not designed with such an idea in view, developments in recent years seemed to be steering Chile toward a real parliamentary system; but the recent *coup d'etat* appears to have been in the opposite direction.

Under the Chilean constitution of 1833 the American system of three separate functions—executive, legislative and judicial—was adopted; but, unlike the United States, Chile incorporated a system of federal centralization which is probably more extreme than in any other republic. The president appoints the 23 intendants, who correspond roughly to our governors. With the intendants nominating them, he also appoints the 82 governors who rule over districts such as might be formed by groups of counties in the United States. The governors appoint sub-delegates to administer what might roughly correspond to townships, and the sub-delegates in turn appoint inspectors for small precincts. The whole elaborate civil hierarchy centers in the president and is ruled from the national capital.

Has Council of State

The constitution in 1833 provided for the indirect election of the president for five years through a sort of electoral college; the indirect election of senators in the provinces for six-year terms; and the direct election of members of the lower house from the districts for three-year terms. There was no vice-president. The president was to appoint a cabinet of six members to be confirmed by the senate, and the succession passed to the Secretary of the Interior if the presidential chair was vacated, a new presidential election to be called immediately. A sort of connecting link was established between the executive and the legislature in the form of a Council of State made up of the president, the cabinet, five additional members chosen by the president, and six chosen by congress. A permanent committee of congress was also set up to act for that body during its recess. This was composed of seven senators and seven deputies.

The constitution has had only slight modifications. All religions are permitted to celebrate their rites in their own buildings, and civil marriages are now recognized. The provision setting up property qualifications for voters has been construed liberally until now literacy is the chief test. The English system is in force, however, permitting candidates for congress to stand for election in other communities than their own. This has helped the wealthy classes to maintain control of the government since candidates well supplied with funds from Santiago can go into communities where local opponents, without financial backing, are easily defeated.

UMI

ON A CHIHUAHUA CATTLE RANCH

© National Geographic Society.

Chihuahua once had millions of cattle of its own but revolutions have almost completely destroyed the herds. The grass of the old ranges is now being utilized by cattle shipped from drought-visited sections of the United States.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Leipzig Has "World's Fair" Every Year

LEIPZIG is taking stock of the results of its annual "world's fair" for buyers of its wares.

Exceeded in commercial importance and population in Germany only by Berlin, Hamburg and Munich, Leipzig is a living memorial to the value of good roads. Even as herds of buffalo, deer, and other animals went regularly to salt licks, primitive man found that practically the only need which would take him out of his own valley was salt. Halle, also in Saxony, was a source of salt and some of the earliest German merchants passed through the tiny Slavic fishing village, Leipzig, on their way to Halle a few miles distant to get salt.

Good Roads Brought Business

At a date too early to record, what might be called the "Boosters" club of Leipzig decided that a good road between Leipzig and Halle would make more merchants go through Leipzig. Thus the little village in the broad flat plain, devoid of natural strategic aids, made itself a junction point and outstripped its neighbor villages. Descendants of those early "Boosters" completed a union railroad station in Leipzig in 1913 that has a facade 1,000 feet long.

Last year Leipzig was somewhat discouraged. It planned a great "normalcy" fair. More than 170,000 people attended the fair, but sales were weak. "Prices too high," said merchants from America, Persia, England, China—merchants from everywhere. Nevertheless, certain old reliable buyers appeared at the fair last year for the first time since the war and this was the silver lining for Leipzig. Because of the return of the old timers Leipzig has built great hopes for the economic value of the present fair. The United States has nothing to compare with the Leipzig fair. Nearest it, probably, is a great New York skyscraper where a buyer can outfit a hotel completely from table silver to ham and bell-boys' uniforms.

Fairs in the U. S. A.

Fairs in the United States ordinarily mean blooded stock competitions, cooking and sewing competitions, horse races, and ballyhooing on midway. The word originally referred to a Roman religious festival and even now in Europe "fair days" frequently fall near the religious holidays. Lacking communications, medieval merchants made their church duties serve their worldly welfare by transacting business while attending church festivals. The need to see purchases diminished with the coming of printing and the railroad, so modern times have seen the decline of the great Nizhni Novgorod fair and the Beaucaire fair of France. Only the Leipzig fair has stood its ground. It adapted itself by devoting its fair to those products which it still is necessary to see before purchasing, notably toys, leather and furs.

Leipzig, like Berlin, Vienna and other European cities, has added variety to the swords-into-ploughshares legend by razing its old battlements into boulevards. Its Ring-Strasse, built where grim walls rose once, surrounds the old city in the center of which is the fair market. To the east is the fine Book-Exchange building which

UMI

Liberalism Gaining Ground

In late years, however, the more liberal parties have gained strength steadily, and it was an alliance of such a complexion that in 1920 elected the recently ousted president. What the president stood for when he took office is indicated by the principal recommendations in his message of June, 1921. He advocated improved legal status for women, labor welfare, complete separation of Church and State, decentralization of the government, creation of the office of vice-president, abolition of the permanent committee of congress and the council of state, and the popular election of president. The closeness of the latest election is probably one factor in the recent unprecedented ousting of the president. The election was so nearly a tie that a special tribunal—called a Court of Honor—was set up to decide it. This body declared the returning president, Alessandri, to be elected by one vote in the electoral college, 177 to his opponent's 176.

A Longer and Narrower California

Financial difficulties made up one factor in the events which culminated in the ousting of the president. Chile's income depends largely on the world-famous nitrate deposits of her northern deserts. Two-thirds of the republic's revenue comes from export taxes on the chemical. The remainder is made up of miscellaneous income duties and internal taxes.

Chile may be superficially compared to California, with the directions reversed. It stretches in a narrow strip with the Pacific on one side and a mountain range on the other and embraces dry desert, a productive temperate region, and an area of moisture and cold. Whereas California is only 800 miles long, however, Chile is 2,700 miles in length. To correspond with Chile in extent of latitude covered, California would have to annex on the south a strip twice as long as Mexico's Lower California, and would have to extend northward to the lower tip of Alaska's "Pan-Handle."

Chile differs as much racially from the rest of South America as it does politically. It has had a greater proportion of northern European immigration than its sister states, largely German and British. The predominant strain is a mixture of Spanish and Araucanian Indian, a mingling which extends through all social levels. Few immigrants from Southern Europe have come in, and like Great Britain, Chile has working classes of its own blood.

Bulletin No. 1, March 23, 1925.

Do You Wish Your Bulletins Continued?

Teachers who wish their Bulletins continued should mail their requests promptly. Back copies for completing files cannot always be supplied. If your subscription expires with an April issue it is suggested that renewal be made now:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN for the school year beginning with the issue of....., for classroom use, to

Name .....

Address for sending Bulletins.....

City..... State.....

I am a teacher in.....school.....grade.

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Jubaland: An African Dixie

THE BRITISH House of Commons has passed a bill ceding Jubaland to Italy. Jubaland sounds like a musical comedy name for Dixie, but it is a portion of British East Africa—the northernmost strip of Kenya Colony—which Italy gets by virtue of her joining the Allies in the Great War.

Marked Agricultural Opportunities

Few other undeveloped regions on the vast continent of Africa hold such agricultural opportunities for individuals or companies which can handle native labor as do the vast uncultivated plains on which rubber, cotton and tobacco can be grown.

Jubaland now is the northernmost part of British East Africa lying west of the Juba River. Few white men have penetrated the fastnesses of this country which touches Abyssinia on the north, Uganda on the west, and Italian Somaliland on the east. Its southern portion fringes the equator. With the exception of the Juba there are no navigable streams of note leading inland.

The Juba River, about the length of our own Colorado River, can be used for commercial navigation about 400 miles from its mouth. In its valley, where irrigation is practiced on a naturally fertile soil, already there are continuous fields of maize, millet, plantain, semsem, tobacco and cotton. Near the lower portion of the river densely populated areas alternate with forests.

Strong Brown Men Excel in War and Trade

Within Jubaland's territory, only a little less in area than Italy, perhaps 250,000 members of the Somali and Galla tribes live. The Gallas are of a high physical quality. They are dark brown in color, are generally tall and well-formed, and their deep-sunk, lively eyes give their faces a keen, intelligent look. They are warlike nomads and roam with their herds of camels, ponies, cows and fat-tailed sheep over the grassy uplands of their country. Within recent years the Somali, who live farther to the north, have gradually pushed into the Galla country and are sending its people southward and westward. The Gallas are hospitable, brave in battle and keen in trading.

Their women enjoy an exceptional amount of freedom as compared with that given the women of most African tribes. They may even reject an undesirable suitor. Both men and women usually wear a mantle of coarse cotton, and make up for the lack in the number of their garments by adorning themselves with ornaments of brass and iron. The men wear necklaces of the brighter metal, leaving the fashion of armlets and anklets of more inconspicuous substances to women.

Crops Approximate Those of the United States

This land of promise is not an unpleasant place to live. The lowlands are hot, but a short distance back from the shores of the Indian Ocean the land begins to rise gradually until it reaches an elevation of between 4,500 and 6,000 feet, when it stretches out into a rolling plateau, with valuable forest areas. In this section the

UMI

annually attracts hundreds of publishers. Leipzig is the publishing center of Germany, more than 500 periodicals emanating from this town.

On the edge of the town, almost on the battle site where Napoleon's defeat in the Battle of Nations foreshadowed Waterloo, is Leipzig University, a leading German educational institution. Many Americans have studied medicine and other subjects in these halls made famous by Goethe. Tourists today are shown Auerbach's beer cellar where Goethe, the student, made merry and drew inspiration for Faust from old mural paintings.

Richard Wagner's Birthplace

Near-by on the same street where Goethe wooed is a simple tablet in a wall with the inscription: "In this house was born Richard Wagner, May 22, 1813."

Although Leipzig can point to no great cathedral, it has as fine a musical and literary tradition as any town in the Reich. Bach, who is the composers' composer, much as Spencer is the poets' poet, drilled choruses in a Leipzig church, and built up an orchestra. Young Felix Mendelssohn took up the baton of this orchestra and out of it grew the famous Leipzig Conservatory. Schumann and the poet Schiller were also attracted to Leipzig, lending it reflected glory.

Bulletin No. 2, March 23, 1925.

Membership in The National Geographic Society

TEACHERS constantly inquire about membership in the National Geographic Society, and the procedure necessary to obtain the *National Geographic Magazine*, so highly valued in schools, and The Society's maps and panoramas which also go to members. For your convenience a nomination blank, which members use in nominating their friends to the rich benefits of membership, is attached:

DUES

Annual membership in U. S., $3.00; annual membership abroad, $4.00; Canada, $3.50; life membership, $100. Please make remittances payable to the National Geographic Society, and if at a distance remit by New York draft, postal or express order.

RECOMMENDATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

IN THE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The Membership Fee Includes Subscription to the National Geographic Magazine

PLEASE DETACH AND FILL IN BLANK BELOW AND SEND TO THE SECRETARY

---------- *192*

To the Secretary, National Geographic Society,
Sixteenth and M Streets Northwest, Washington, D. C.:

I nominate ----------

Occupation ----------
(This information is important for the records.)

Address ----------

----

for membership in the Society.

Name and Address of Nominating Member

b-88

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Chihuahua: A Rich Neighbor

AN AMERICAN invasion of Mexico has been going on in recent weeks, and State troops of Chihuahua have marched out in connection with it. It is not a hostile invasion, however. Thousands of head of American cattle from drought-stricken sections in the Southwest are being transferred to the grassy ranges of Chihuahua and the troops have been guarding their transit through certain regions.

Largest of Mexican States and richest in resources, Chihuahua has an area about twice that of Pennsylvania but a population only two-thirds that of Pittsburgh. Were its lands allocated among its citizens every five persons might have more than a square mile.

Croesus Might Envy State Its Mines

Such allotments would make many quintets of owners fabulously rich; for a Croesus might envy the wealth of some Chihuahua mines. Best known of these is the historic Santa Eulalia, 17 miles southeast of Chihuahua City, discovered in 1703, but not yet exhausted, from which have come millions of dollars worth of silver. Many of the silver mines possess ores of 50, 60 and even 75 per cent metal, and there came from one Chihuahua mine a giant nugget of nearly 500 pounds of almost pure silver.

Gold, lead, iron and copper also are mined. Farming and cattle raising are major industries of Chihuahua. The former has been stimulated by irrigation projects, though the agricultural output has been estimated, under normal conditions, to be only one-fourth as valuable as the minerals. But the most recent, and potentially one of the most valuable industries of the State, is that connected with the vast forests. Resin and turpentine were derived from some of the mountain timber.

Four-fifths of Chihuahua consists of undulating table-lands, for the most part thousands of feet above sea level, offering extremes of temperature from the bleak snow-clad peaks in winter to the oppressive heat of valleys in midsummer. Rich in resources as is the State, taken as a whole, there are broad arid, desert-like areas.

A Dog Worth His Weight in Gold

In Chihuahua grows the agave, nature's own antidote for snake bites, deadly also to the reptile which tastes its juice. The curious Chihuahua dog, if his pedigree can be verified, is almost worth his weight in gold. These tiny, sickly, rat-sized canines have been compared to the sleeve dogs of China. A "butterfly-dog" of highest degree should weigh less than two pounds.

At Guanajuato is the Bastile of Mexico, the Alhondiga de Granaditas, once a grain market, later a prison, where the head of Hidalgo was displayed on a spike for a decade as a warning to other revolutionists. Though Hidalgo was executed (two years before his trial was concluded, incidentally) and his army dispersed, he is known as the "author of Mexican liberty." He rang Mexico's "liberty bell" on his church at Dolores in 1810, sounding the tocsin of the future freedom and long era of prosperity, until the end of Diaz's regime.

Traces of the Apaches, once "cruelest and most treacherous race in the

UMI

climate is temperate, with heavy rains during our spring and fall months. The crops are approximately the same as those we find in our own country.

Kismayu is the capital of Jubaland. It is a town of about 3,000 inhabitants a few miles from the mouth of the Juba and carries on a brisk trade with the interior.

© National Geographic Society.

FRUIT VENDING FROM DONKEY BACK

Grapes and melons and numerous other fruits and vegetables grow to perfection in the irrigated valleys of Chile.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Bucharest: The Brooklyn of the Balkans

ONE OF the most interesting annual religious ceremonies of Europe took place recently when the Metropolitan of Bucharest brought Epiphany celebrations to a climax by blessing the icy waters of the Danube. At the conclusion he threw a large wooden cross into the stream and a number of chosen men plunged in to recover it.

It is consistent to find the Rumanian capital figuring in the news of the world because of religious matters. It is a city of churches—some 125 of them. One cannot walk far without encountering one; there is scarcely a view which does not include one or two of them.

Dotted With Turrets and Cupolas

These churches are especially noticeable because of their numerous turrets and cupolas. The latter usually are plated or gilded. Despite the abundance of towers the church bells are hung outside, on wooden porches a few yards away from the main building.

All this is not to say that Bucharest is noticeably religious. The traveler finds rather that it is gay, vivacious, colorful. He stands on any frequented street and sees well-dressed, pretty women, many of them girls, who seem to have escaped the seclusion of the East and the chaperonage of the West.

Here, indeed, is the clue to Bucharest. It is a Parisian city on the fringe of the Orient; a Latin oasis surrounded by Slavs. It expresses the curious Rumanian paradox of a country which begets a major part of its language, its religion, and its law from Slavic sources; and imports its institutions, its education, and its fashions from Paris.

A City of Social Gaiety

Bucharest's many beautiful homes are centers of continual entertaining; its numerous cafes have developed the dining-out habit as extensively as in Vienna and Stockholm. The Rumanian is naturally loquacious, vivacious, companionable. It is hard for him to remain aloof and alone.

The city has always loved the uniform and its soldiers with high heels, soft laced boots, and waxed mustaches add a colorful complement to its chic women. These soldiers showed their mettle by their brave defense of their city during the World War before an overpowering attack compelled the removal of the capital temporarily to Jassy.

An "Olympian" Post Office

Adding to the color of the city is the practice among the prince and merchant owners of its many beautiful homes of enclosing their grounds with a tall, black, iron fence. The railings and the ornate gateways are decorated in gold. Its public buildings are especially imposing. The post office has been called "Olympian in its grandeur."

UMI

world," are to be found in Chihuahua, as are many cliff dwellings, Aztec mounds and various other ruins, which have not been studied. The conquest of these Apaches was one of the most difficult tasks of the white man's effort toward peaceful development of Mexico. The poetically inclined may conclude that nature, as well as the natives, helped make Chihuahua inhospitable. For many kinds of plants, especially in the deserts, are thorny and prickly. Especially is this true of the prolific cactus. Moreover, one writer comments, "The mountain ridges present the most singular summits, terminating in pyramidal points, or resembling towers or minarets."

Near Santa Rosalia, famous for its mineral waters, reputed to be helpful for treatment of rheumatism, are ruins of the fort taken by American troops which marched through Chihuahua in 1849 to join General Zachary Taylor.

© National Geographic Society.

A RUSSIAN CHURCH IN BUCHAREST

Of Rumania's 17,000,000 inhabitants nearly 10,000,000 belong to the Greek Orthodox Church.

Within a decade the city's population more than doubled. Its visitors multiplied and it often required persistent effort to get a room in one of its large hotels or to obtain a table in one of their beautiful dining-rooms. Many of these were open to the sky.

Much of the gay life has been gone from Bucharest for a year or so, while it made earnest effort to come to reparations agreements with other European powers. Meanwhile foreign creditors were pressing its merchants for private debts. The delay in adjusting these financial problems was largely responsible for political crises in Rumania in recent years.

© National Geographic Society.

HIDES AT THE NIZHNI-NOVGOROD MARKET

Nizhni-Novgorod's market is very ancient. Situated near the border between Europe and Asia, it attracts many nomads and has primitive aspects. Leipzig's fair has been developed along more modern lines.